

# Knotweed specialists get to root of problem

## Environet is an expert in its field after 18 years of eradicating plant

By **Nick Edmondson**

THE front line against the 'triffid-like' Japanese knotweed plant is being fought by a Send-based company.

Environet is celebrating 18 years since it launched at its original headquarters in Weston Super Mare, during which time it has become a leading expert in the fight against the plant taking over gardens across the country.

The company, which moved to Send in May, is now the longest-running organisation specialising solely in the eradication of knotweed.

The plant, *Fallopia japonica*, is seen as the scourge of much of the UK's countryside, with official records now claiming that there is not a single six-mile patch of

England where it is not present. The weed is notoriously hard to eradicate, even being known to survive incineration. It can cause the cost of proposed developments to spiral out of control and has even been known to affect mortgage applications.

As many house buyers have found it near impossible to gain a mortgage if knotweed is found on a property, disputes between neighbours are becoming more common by the day.

However, Environet has been hailed for its progress with its patented Xtract machinery, which is viewed as being particularly natural and eco-friendly.

Originally created to clear large commercial development sites, the practice was so successful it has been

rolled out for residential use.

Managing director of Environet, Nic Seal, said: "We have always known that with the right knowledge and treatment Japanese knotweed is a problem that need not blight lives and livelihoods.

"But we also know it is the job of a professional eradication specialist. Things tend to go wrong when people attempt to deal with it themselves or try to conceal it."

He added: "We are able to work with the parties involved to resolve the situation and eradicate the Japanese knotweed, but on occasions where legal intervention is necessary, we have also helped develop a legal service with a specialist lawyer to assist with knotweed encroachment issues."



*Environet staff member Mark Thompson highlights the size of some Japanese knotweed plants.*